Arms treaty

3134. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had the perception that Arms Trade Treaty would help in stopping the smuggling of arms in the hands of terrorists and make them un-armed; and

(b) if so, the reason for Government not taking steps to participate in U.N. sponsored Arms Trade Treaty deliberations and make world forum aware of neighbouring countries contribution in arming terrorists in India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) There is at present no treaty known as the Arms Trade Treaty. However, discussions are slated to begin at the United Nations to conclude such a treaty. India has been constructively engaged in the discussions that have taken place at the UN on an eventual legally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). India participated actively in the UN-mandated Open Ended Working Group on ATT which met twice in 2009. However, there remain divergences among various countries on the scope, principles, parameters and other aspects of the ATT.

India has accorded high priority to effectively deal with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons through the existing UN mechanisms such as the UN Programme of Action (PoA), India believes that it is not the absence of common international standards on trade in conventional arms alone that results in illicit trade. It is therefore not clear if the ATT alone would help in stopping the smuggling of arms and the flow of arms to terrorists.

Action taken by Pakistan against terrorism

†3135. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has failed to force Pakistan Government to take any action against terrorism although all the documents regarding Mumbai attack have been sent to it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Pakistan against terrorists engaged in Mumbai attack at present; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) Government has shared evidence with Pakistan in the form of seven dossiers on the role of Pakistani nationals in the terrorist attack on Mumbai. Pakistan acknowledged and admitted on February 12, 2009 that the terrorist attack on Mumbai on November 26, 2008 was planned and launched from Pakistan. In its dossier of July 11, 2009, Pakistan also acknowledged that substantial incriminating evidence had been unearthed which directly connects five accused LeT operatives under Pakistani custody. Two

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

more suspects were arrested later. On November 25, 2009, the Government of Pakistan reportedly filed a charge sheet in an Anti Terrorism Court in Pakistan against the seven suspects and 20 proclaimed offenders for their role in the terrorist attack on Mumbai.

Government has conveyed its concerns and expectations to Pakistan on several occasions, including at the highest level in the meetings of Prime Minister with President and Prime Minister of Pakistan and in the meetings between EAM and Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Pakistan has stated that it will bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack to justice. Government expects Pakistan to act with purpose against the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack as also to unearth the wider conspiracy which motivated, planned and launched the attack.

International passport for haj pilgrims

3136. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made international passport mandatory for Haj pilgrims in place of temporary passport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is also aware that Haj pilgrims were forced by regional passport offices to grease their palm for their international passport;

(d) if so, the details of complaints received in this regard till date during last one year, State-wise;

(e) the efforts made/proposed to be made to redress the plights of poor Haj pilgrims; and

(f) the other steps Government has taken for their convenience and to facilitate the Haj pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) In accordance with the decision of the Government of Saudi Arabia conveyed to the Government of India, all Haj pilgrims were required to travel on international passports, from Haj-2009 onwards.

(c) and (d) No complaint of this nature was received.

(e) Government of India issued guidelines to all the Passport Offices after consultation with the Haj Committee of India and State Haj Committees to ensure that no Haj pilgrim faces any hurdle in obtaining his/her passport to undertake the pilgrimage. All passport offices were instructed that the Haj passports should be handed over to the Haj pilgrims / Haj Committee within the due date stipulated by the Committee to ensure that no Haji faced any difficulty in undertaking the pilgrimage.

(f) The Government of India makes arrangements to facilitate the pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia through the Haj Committee of India and facilitates provision of accommodation and other logistical support for them. For efficient management and supervision of Haj arrangements, a large